(e) the number of gas-based projects which are in the process of installation in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The presence of natural gas has been established by National Oil Companies (NOCs) in eight States;

(b) In Tripura, exploration has been carried out in 14 prospects, of which 6 prospects have proved to be gas bearing.

(c) As on 1.4.2002, the estimated ultimate gas reserves in the fields of Tripura are about 28 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM).

(d) The present utilisation/drawal of natural gas by various consumers in Tripura is about 1.2 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) against 2.0 MMSCMD of gas that could be produced as per the present surface handling capacity of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. in the State.

(e) At present, there are four gas based projects which are using gas in Tripura. Natural gas has also been allocated in favour of four power projects and one fertilizer project.

Impact of International price on domestic LPG price

2194. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been reports in the Hindustan Times of 27th May, 2002 that the Indian national companies would bear additional burden on cooking gas as a result of increase in the International prices, if so, what is the additional burden per LPG cylinder;

(b) what is the present subsidy per cylinder Government are bearing and how much the national companies are losing per day with international prices soaring up; and

(c) whether it is proposed to pass this additional burden to the consumer, if so, how much per cylinder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) As per the Government decision on dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), domestic LPG will continue to be subsidised post APM. The subsidy on LPG will be on a specified flat rate basis from 1st April 2002 and the retail price will vary as per the price changes in the international market. The flat rate of subsidy and the financial burden on the oil companies due

to non increase in the retail selling price of domestic LPG from May 2002 onwards have not been assessed as yet.

Marketing rights to foreign oil investors

†2195. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of private and foreign companies who have agreed to invest in the field of oil exploration in exchange of marketing rights;

(b) the increase in oil production likely to occur due to this;

(c) whether Government propose to give marketing rights to private and foreign companies in case they invest in oil exploration and refining;

(d) if so, the number of companies which responded in this regard; and

(e) by when final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Government have not received any such proposal from private/foreign companies.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have laid down the guidelines vide its resolution dated 8th March, 2002 for granting of authorisation to market transportation fuels to the new entrants. These guidelines, *inter-alia*, stipulate the condition of investment of Rs. 2,000 crore in eligible activities including oil exploration and refinery.

(d) and (e) Government have received the requests for granting of authorization to market transportation fuels from Reliance Petroleum Limited (RPL), Essar Oil Limited (EOL) and Nagarjuna Oil Corporation Limited (NOCL) and permission in favour of RPL and EOL has been granted as they were found eligible as per the laid down guidelines of the Government.

Disparity among LPG/SKO dealers in Delhi

2196. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.